

REMARKS

1. Reconsideration and further prosecution of the above-identified application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and discussion that follows. Claims 1-14 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,469,785 to Duveneck et al. After a careful review of the claims (as amended), it has been concluded that the rejections are in error and the rejections are, therefore, traversed.

2. Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Duveneck et al. In response, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to make clear that the optical signals are communication signals, the optical fibers are on a side of the substrate opposite the optical ports and that the optical fibers are disposed within an optical connector. Support for the limitation that the optical signals are communication signal is contained in the preamble of claims 1 and 9. Support for the optical fibers being on the opposite side of the substrate and being within an optical connector is provided by FIG. 3.

In contrast, Duveneck et al. is directed to a device that does not have an optical connector with a plurality of optical fibers. The optical waveguides 446, 447, 448, 449 of Duveneck et al. are on the same side of the substrate 480 as are the surface-emitting semiconductor lasers 410, 411 and Duveneck et al. also fails to teach the alignment of the fibers to the lasers.

In addition, Duveneck et al. is directed to a device for chemical analysis. Since Duveneck et al. is directed to a device for chemical analysis, Duveneck et al. fails to

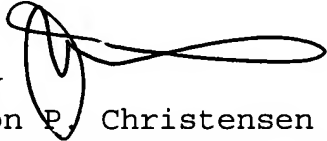
provide any teaching or suggestion of the use of communication signals.

In addition, modification of Duveneck et al. to meet the limitations of the invention as now claimed (i.e., be a communication device) would render Duveneck et al. unsuitable for its intended purpose. Since the modification would render Duveneck et al. unsuitable for its intended purpose, there is no suggestion to modify Duveneck et al.

For any of the above reasons, Duveneck et al. fails to teach each and every claim limitation. Since Duveneck et al. fails to teach each and every claim limitation, the rejection is now improper and should be withdrawn.

3. Allowance of claims 1-14, as now presented, is believed to be in order and such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.


By
Jon P. Christensen
Registration No. 34,137

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WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 South Riverside Plaza
22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 655-1500